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CIA/BI PN 69.1911P
30 January 1967

Considerations Bearing on the Question of the Issuance
of an Export Licence for a (US) Worden Gravimeter

The US Embassy/Warsaw, in its incoming telegram, Warsaw 1607, dated 4 January 1967, states that the Embassy received a detailed Polish explanation of the peaceful uses intended for the Worden gravity meter (such as, Polish geodetic mapping in conjunction with an international project sponsored by the International Association of Geodesy) and a judgment is expressed that the instrument will not be used for prototype purposes.

Pending the receipt of a follow-up Embassy airgram which may disclose additional details, there is presently no known Polish geodetic program being conducted in conjunction with a project of the International Association of Geodesy with the possible exception of the international project for the study of the contemporary movement of the Earth's crust. If this is the project referred to, the Poles are using it as a specious pretext to obtain the Worden meter.

The Worden gravity meter has no distinctive characteristics that would make it uniquely advantageous for crustal movement observations. In fact, there are other meters that are more suitable. One of these -- preferred by the Soviets -- is the Askania GS-11, produced by and available from a West German firm. On the other hand, the Worden meter offers other advantages -- consistency in data observations with portability over extensive areas -- which make it more suitable for geodetic or geophysical purposes than other comparable Soviet meters. The data obtained for these purposes would not be made available to the Free World because Communist policy has consistently considered such data as vital secrets whose disclosure to the US would improve target positioning for missile operations. This policy has been recently reaffirmed by Soviet refusal to provide gravimetric data to the International Gravity Bureau.

Intelligence
The Poles have long been interested in the procurement of a Worden meter. In view of the fact that the data obtained would improve Communist geodesy, and would be denied to international science, it is our judgment that the release of a Worden meter would be contrary to US national security interests at this time.

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If necessary, these considerations could be transmitted to the Poles to make them aware that Communist intransigence is the basic stumbling block to international cooperation in this area.

Concurrence:
AGD/GSD/SI

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